

BLUE LINE NEWSWEEK

A CHRONICLE OF NEWS FOR THE CANADIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNITY

March 8, 2013 – Vol. 18 No. 10

Executive Digest

Feb 28 2013

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Page 3

Feb 28 2013

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Page 4

Mar 04 2013

OTTAWA - With less than a month before funding was due to run out, the Conservative government has given the First Nations Policing Program another five-year lease on life.

Page 6

Mar 05 2013

A 30-year veteran of the Toronto Police Service has been chosen as Barrie's next police chief. Staff Superintendent Kimberley Greenwood will officially assume the role on March 26 after being announced as the ninth police chief in Barrie history on Monday.

Page 7

Mar 07 2013

HALIFAX - Halifax Regional Police Deputy Chief Christopher McNeil announced his retirement Wednesday after 31 years with the force.

Page 10

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Funeral Saturday for slain Quebec police officer



Mar 07 2013

OTTAWA - A police funeral will be held in Ottawa on Saturday for an officer who was killed while responding to a call in northern Quebec last weekend.

Const. Steve Dery of the Kativik Regional Police Service was shot while responding to a domestic dispute in Kuujjuaq, about 1,500 kilometres north of Montreal.

Dery was originally from the Ottawa area. Ottawa police and the Kativik Regional Police Force say the funeral will be held at the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica (at 385 Sussex Dr.) starting at 11 a.m.

Ottawa police say they are still working with the Kativik police and the Dery Family on how to honour the 27-year-old officer at the funeral.

Visitations will be held on Friday at the Heritage Funeral Home in nearby Orleans.

Dery, 27, died March 2 in Kuujjuaq after he and Joshua Boreland, his partner in Nunavik's police force, were shot at while responding to a call involving domestic violence.

The armed standoff that followed ended just before 3 p.m. March 3 after a flare was fired into the house where an armed man had barricaded himself.

That's when members of the special tactical squad from Sûreté du Québec provincial police entered and found the dead body of young man who appeared to have died by suicide inside the same residence, a SQ spokesperson said.

Multiple sources in Kuujjuaq have identified the young man as Jobie Saunders Jr., who was in his early 20s.

A Quebec government statement, released late March 3, said an independent investigation

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into the Kuujjuaq incident will take place, under legislation that calls for such an inquiry when anyone dies or is injured in a police action.

The SQ will lead that investigation, said Stéphane Bergeron, Quebec's public security minister.

"Steve had a really good sense of humour and he enjoyed life a lot," said Dery's cousin Hélène Sauvageau, who spoke to the Ottawa Citizen March 4 on behalf of his grieving family and girlfriend, a nurse at the Tulattavik Hospital in Kuujjuaq.

"He was brave man with a good heart and always with a smile," she said. "He wanted to be a policeman to protect others."

"My condolences to the friends and family of Steve Dery, the young police officer who lost his life in the line of duty in Kuujjuaq," Prime Minister Stephen Harper said in a March 3 statement. MPs in the House of Commons observed a moment of silence as a tribute to Dery on March 4.

Also on March 4, Nunavut Premier Eva Ariak rose in the territorial legislature "to share my deepest condolences on the tragic events that took place Saturday evening in Nunavik, our neighbours to the south."

"My thoughts and prayers go out to the families, loved ones, and the community of Kuujjuaq during this difficult time," she said.

The violence started when the two KRPF officers responded to a call at about 9:30 p.m. March 2, SQ Sgt. Ronald McInnis said.

"As soon as they arrived they were shot at," he said.

The two officers were brought to the Tulattavik Hospital, where Dery died of his wounds, he said.

The other officer, since identified as Boreland, suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

A woman who was inside the residence managed to leave.

People in the community of 2,400 have told Nunatsiaq News they feel "very, very sad" that

the police officer, a well-liked young man, who had worked in Nunavik since 2009, died.

One Kuujjuaq man said that he thought this past weekend's incident shows "a lot about how kids are raised and what they live each day," referring to the high crime of rate and alcohol-related violence in Kuujjuaq, where there were a total of 2,434 criminal incidents in 2012, according to recently-tabled statistics from the KRPF.

These included 640 assaults, of which 424 were alcohol-related and 55 directed against members of the KRPF.

Another resident worried that negative attitudes towards the KRPF, criticized last week by some councillors at a Kativik Regional Government council meeting in Kuujjuaq, may contribute to more attacks against police in Nunavik.

The Kativik Regional Police Force which Dery worked for was created in 1996 to serve communities in Nunavik, which comprises the northern third of Quebec. Kuujjuaq is the largest village in the region, with a population of about 2,400.

(Nunatsiaq News, Canadian Press, Ottawa Citizen)

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2013

Feb 28 2013

Incarceration rates for black Americans dropped sharply from 2000 to 2009, especially for women, while the rate of imprisonment for whites and Hispanics rose over the same decade, according to a report released Wednesday by a prison research and advocacy group in Washington.

The declining rates for blacks represented a significant shift in the racial makeup of the United States' prisons and suggested that the disparities that have long characterized the prison population may be starting to diminish.

The decline in incarceration rates was most striking for black women, dropping 30.7 percent over the ten-year period. In 2000, black women were imprisoned at six times the rate of white women; by 2009, they were 2.8 times

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GROUP PUBLISHER: Morley S. Lymburner
PUBLISHER: Kathryn M. Lymburner B.A. - Kathryn@BlueLine.ca
NEWS EDITOR: Mark Reesor - News@BlueLine.ca
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Blue Line Store at www.BlueLine.ca
ADVERTISING: 1-888-640-3048

12A-4981 Hwy. 7 East, Ste. 254, Markham ON L3R 1N1
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more likely to be in prison. For black men, the rate of imprisonment decreased by 9.8 percent; in 2000 they were incarcerated at 7.7 times the rate of white men, a rate that fell to 6.4 times that of white men by 2009.

For white men and women, however, incarceration rates increased over the same period, rising 47.1 percent for white women and 8.5 percent for white men. By the end of the decade, Hispanic men were slightly less likely to be in prison, a drop of 2.2 percent, but Hispanic women were imprisoned more frequently, an increase of 23.3 percent.

Over all, blacks currently make up about 38 percent of inmates in state and federal prisons; whites account for about 34 percent. (New York Times)



Feb 28 2013

TORONTO - Ontario's police watchdog is keeping a closer eye on officers than ever before, launching a record number of investigations last year into everything from firearm deaths to sexual assault complaints.

Created in 1990 to probe police-civilian incidents involving death or serious injury, the Special Investigations Unit, which oversees 28,000 officers across the province, has become increasingly active in recent years, new data shows.

Compiled by the SIU, the statistics demonstrate that charges have been laid in a total of 126 cases — fewer than 3 per cent of all investigations. But the probes are becoming much more frequent. After sinking to a low of 136 in 2004, the numbers climbed to 382 in 2012, an increase of 180 per cent.

"The number of investigations [has] increased significantly over the SIU's 22 years of existence," SIU director Ian Scott said. "I would attribute this to a better understanding within the police community of the role of the SIU combined with an increased number of contacts from the media, lawyers and complainants."

The statistics were released amid criticism of SIU operations from the Toronto Police Association and the Ottawa Police Association. In the past week, the heads of both police unions have called for an independent inquiry into the way the SIU conducts its investigations.

Ottawa Police Association president Matt Skof, who is upset over the SIU's decision to probe a Feb. 20 murder-suicide, said he is "not surprised" by the numbers.

"If you look at the call in Ottawa ... that's now going to be part of the stat," he said.

According to Scott, the unit invoked its mandate in that case because Ottawa police refused to release the 911 tapes and dispatch information without a written request from the SIU.

"In order for us to send the written request, we formally opened an investigation that day into the matter," Scott said. The SIU closed the file on Feb. 22, after reviewing the relevant materials, he said.

The increase in investigations has been particularly pronounced in the area of sexual assault complaints, which have risen fairly steadily in recent years, from 12 in 2004 to 49 in 2012.

This could be due to an increased awareness of the SIU, and the fact many complaints in this category are "historical," with members of the public reporting incidents years after they are alleged to have occurred, Scott said.

There has also been a substantial jump in investigations into serious injuries allegedly

inflicted on individuals in police custody, which hit a high of 229 last year.

Scott said this may be the result of more police services using the SIU's definition of serious injuries, which include "those that are likely to interfere with the health or comfort of the victim."

"The bar is a bit lower than the definition they may have used beforehand," Scott said.

The SIU did not provide an annual breakdown of investigations prior to 1993. From 1990 to 1992, there were 260 investigations. Charges were laid in 6.5 per cent of cases, the highest rate on record.

At the other end of the spectrum, in 1995 and 2005, charges were laid in fewer than 1 per cent of cases.

(Toronto Star)



TRAINING

Truth Focused Interviewing
April 23rd & 24th, 9:00 to 4:00
Instructor:
Kevin Byrnes – A Detective with a major GTA police service, an author and facilitator, he has conducted interviews for many police agencies, the FBI and Interpol.

Crisis Intervention for First Responders
April 23rd 9:00 – 4:00
Instructor:
Tom Hart – Retired from Durham Regional Police Service, he is now President of Canadian Critical Incident Inc.

Investigative Strategies
April 23rd 9:00 – 4:00
Instructor:
Dave Perry – Retired Toronto homicide detective and CEO of Investigative Solutions Network

Coping with Secondary Traumatic Stress
April 24, 9:00 – 4:00
Instructor:
Stephanie M. Conn – Registered Clinical Counsellor, Conn Counselling and Consulting and Blue Line Magazine columnist - *Holding the Line*

Economic Crimes: Detection & Investigation (Project Mouse and Project Kite)
April 24th, 9:00 – 4:00
Instructors:
PROJECT MOUSE:
Police Constable Timothy Trotter, Toronto Police Service – 14 Division
Detective Constable Michael Kelly, Toronto Police Service – Financial Crimes Unit
BLANCHARD CASE:
Larry Levasseur CFI, CPP
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SURREY, B.C. - British Columbia's fledgling police watchdog has praised the co-operation between his office and police forces around the province, saying his experience at the helm of the agency has been different than what has gone on elsewhere.

"I almost want to say it's remarkable, but it's not," Richard Rosenthal, director of the Independent Investigations Office, said of his five months of working with provincial police forces.

"In Ontario, the first five to 10 years of the special investigations unit, ... a lack of co-operation was constantly reported. B.C. is different. In B.C., every chief was supportive of this program."

Rosenthal is a former deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County and was appointed in 2005 as Denver's first police monitor.

He told reporters Thursday the start of the investigations office couldn't have rolled out better.

Rosenthal made his statements after releasing three reports completed by his office which cleared officers of wrong doing in connection to separate police-involved deaths.

Feb 28 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP plans to dismiss members whose health problems prevent them from doing their job, and the RCMP commissioner is telling the rank-and-file not to buy into any "spin" that says the force is "firing" officers with PTSD who have filed harassment complaints.

In an internal memo sent to members on Wednesday, RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson said the force has to be a good steward of public funds, and make sure its officers have healthy back-up out on the street.

"In the coming days, you may hear stories about the administrative discharge of members who have been off-duty sick (ODS) for a prolonged period. The spin may be that the RCMP is 'firing' employees who are ODS long-term with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after making a harassment complaint for example," Paulson wrote in the internal memo.

"Let me assure you that this is not the case," the commissioner continued.

Paulson said he had heard from members "loud and clear" that long sick-leave absences place a burden on staff, and he noted that it leaves the RCMP unable to permanently fill the positions. Paulson disclosed that members have asked management to be accountable and "to hold members accountable."

Paulson said the force could not "in good conscience", pay someone a full salary indefinitely whose health prevents them from doing their job.

The commissioner noted the force's efforts to keep employees at work and highlighted the force's support programs and benefits.

In a move to massage any upcoming

negative media spin, Paulson said outspoken RCMP officers may not tell the public the whole story.

"There may be a select few RCMP employees who have been ODS long-term and choose to be vocal about their case; I ask that you keep in mind that they can be selective about the details they put forward. Often, knowing the full story can provide an entirely different perspective," Paulson wrote.

"The RCMP has an obligation to both our officers who rely on each other for support and backup, and the Canadians who pay our salaries, to manage our workforce responsibly and be good stewards of public funds. Accordingly, I have decided to move to limit the accumulation of annual leave for members

who are ODS long-term with a non-work related illness or injury.

"While we can — and will — make all reasonable efforts to accommodate our members' healthy return to work; we cannot, in good conscience, continue to pay a full salary indefinitely to an employee whose health prevents them from performing duties within the RCMP," wrote Paulson.

In the last year, up to 35 members on sick leave have received return-to-work letters. The RCMP noted on Thursday that these members have not been "administratively discharged", which, they said, only occurs when all other options have been exhausted.

(Ottawa Citizen)



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FRIDAY MARCH 1, 2013

Mar 01 2013

TORONTO - A Toronto police officer will not go to trial on a rare charge of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a 26-year-old man.



Const. David Cavanagh was charged in the death of Eric Osawe in 2010, which the police union said was the first time in the force's history an officer was charged with murder for an on-the-job incident.

At the end of a preliminary inquiry today, one of Cavanagh's lawyers says the judge decided there was insufficient evidence to commit Cavanagh to trial and entered a discharge.

Lawyer Lawrence Gridin says it's the end of the legal process for Cavanagh, unless the Crown decides to appeal.

Gridin, who worked on the case with lead counsel Peter Brauti, says Cavanagh is relieved with the judge's decision.

The Emergency Task Force and guns and gangs unit were searching an apartment in Toronto's west end on Sept. 29, 2010 and the province's Special Investigations Unit alleged that's when Cavanagh shot Osawe.

Mar 01 2013

SHELBURNE - Staffing at Shelburne's RCMP detachment is down by 50 per cent this month. Of the eight Mounties patrolling Shelburne and environs, two officers are off on paternity leave, a third is taking maternity leave and a fourth is off on sick leave.

"It just kind of happened all at the same time," said Shelburne mayor Karen Mattatall.

The town pays thousands of dollars each year for police officers through a contract with the RCMP. This fiscal year the town will spend \$460,878 for policing.

"Our agreement with the RCMP stipulates that we will have a certain number of members and also that should they be short for a period of 30 days for a position that our (payments) will be reduced correspondingly," said the town CAO Dylan Heide.

"So our total for this year may also be reduced somewhat," he said.

"That's fine but we would like the officers," said Mattatall.

"We want to know that we have the number of (officers) to provide public protection and we want our officers to be well," she added.

"We don't have a situation where there's

shifts not being covered.

"One concern is that (it's) probably stressful for the officers," said Mattatall, who added, "It is my understanding that there is one replacement officer coming in."

Help is indeed on the way, say the RCMP.

"This is a short-term situation that happens in quite a few detachments throughout the country," said Shelburne RCMP Sgt. Ron Prangnell.

"Over the short term it has no effect really and it's being addressed over the long term, so we should be good in the spring here," he said.

"We have wonderful officers here doing a great job," said Mattatall, adding "it appears that the organization, overall, doesn't seem to have a plan in place for when that happens."

(Herald News)

SATURDAY MARCH 2, 2013

Mar 02 2013

OTTAWA - The RCMP has withdrawn a motion to hold a secret disciplinary hearing for its leading covert operations officer.

The Mounties withdrew its motion a day after the Ottawa Citizen reported in February that the force wanted to ban the public from the hearing for national security reasons.

Supt. Mike Gaudreau, who is being tried



on an internal charge of disgraceful conduct, said through his lawyer that he opposed a secret hearing, saying he had nothing to hide.

Gaudreau is not just any Mountie. He was in charge of the force's surveillance and covert-ops unit.

He fell out of favour with the RCMP executive after he was accused of wrongdoing in a \$3-million real estate deal in which the Mounties leased an Ottawa warehouse to be used as a business front for a top-secret operation called Project Rave.

The RCMP claim against Gaudreau is that he concealed his relationship with the real estate agent, who was his girlfriend at the time.

His girlfriend, who earned a commission from the commercial lease deal, told the Citizen she worked hard for the commission.

The once-prized Mountie has denied the allegation of wrongdoing and vowed to clear his name at the disciplinary hearing.

In an affidavit filed in December in support of a lawsuit he launched against the RCMP, claiming the force destroyed his career and reputation, Gaudreau says he not only disclosed his relationship with the real estate

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agent but made it clear he wouldn't be playing "any direct role in the selection of the covert facility, remaining at arm's length."

The statement of claim also alleges that top Mounties, including ex-commissioner William Elliott, failed to safeguard Gaudreau's reputation and failed to apprise him of any information about his disciplinary case that was "leaked" to the Citizen in 2011.

The statement of claim also says that his Notice of Disciplinary Hearing, dated Jan. 11, 2011, had a security classification of "Secret" but still ended up on the front page of the Citizen.

In turn, Gaudreau, according to his court filing, requested an investigation into the Citizen leak.

"These statements could only have been leaked to the (Citizen), by an internal (RCMP) source, and with the intention of discrediting and injuring the plaintiff," says the statement of claim.

The RCMP has not yet filed a statement of defence and none of the allegations has been proved in court.

Two days after a Feb. 5, 2011, Citizen story about Gaudreau, Doug Lang, the RCMP deputy commissioner, signed off on a briefing for Public Safety Minister Vic Toews about the "leak" for question period in the House of Commons, according to court filings.

Gaudreau says the briefing addressed the internal discipline process but failed to address "the serious issue of secret RCMP information being leaked to the media and what, if any, steps the RCMP was taking to investigate this breach of security." (Ottawa Citizen)

Mar 02 2013

EDMONTON - Edmonton's police chief has publicly refuted allegations his officers jailed a woman and ignored her sexual assault complaint because she had outstanding warrants.



Rod Knecht writes in a letter to the editor of the Edmonton Journal that recent media coverage about the woman's experience has been "inaccurate and inflammatory."

Police said they were called to a motel to check on the welfare of an 18-year-old woman in mid-February and that paramedics treated her at the scene.

Knecht writes that officers took her to the police station for followup investigation.

But he says she gave no indication she had been sexually assaulted, so they took her to the city's Remand Centre because of her warrants.

He says she didn't disclose she had been sexually assaulted until "several hours later" and was taken to hospital and an investigation was started.

MONDAY MARCH 4, 2013

Mar 04 2013

VANCOUVER - B.C.'s police complaints commissioner has lost his bid to further investigate the police beating of a Vancouver man.



The B.C. Court of Appeal has unanimously rejected Police Complaint Commissioner Stan Lowe's application to hold a public hearing into the January 2010 beating of Yao Wei Wu.

The high court says Lowe's office did not have the jurisdiction to proceed with a public hearing after a Delta Police investigation found Wu resisted arrest, and cleared Vancouver police constables Nicholas Florkow and Bryan London of any wrongdoing.

Lowe's office believed the investigation was flawed and said a public hearing could preserve confidence in probes of police misconduct.

The Court of Appeal ruling solely examines Lowe's jurisdiction and the judges say it cannot make any reference to whether the police officers should have been cleared.

Florkow and London were answering a domestic violence call but went to the wrong Vancouver address and punched Wu several times when he answered the door. (CKNW)

Mar 04 2013

BANCROFT, Ont. - A 24-year-old Bancroft man is facing an attempted murder charge after a provincial police officer was struck in the head with an axe.

Police say a man was being escorted from a house early Saturday morning when he allegedly picked up an axe and struck the officer.

The accused and his 49-year-old father were then shot.

The officer and the two other men are in Kingston Hospital in serious but stable condition.

Police say Shane Callow, who is in custody in hospital with multiple gunshot wounds, is charged with attempted murder.

The province's Special Investigations Unit is probing the incident. (CKRU)

Mar 04 2013

OTTAWA - With less than a month before funding was due to run out, the Conservative government has given the First Nations Policing Program another five-year lease on life.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews did not say just how much the government will spend on the program, which currently supports police services in First Nations and Inuit communities at a cost of about \$122 million a year.

This year's program covers 163 policing arrangements representing 1,250 trained police officers in about 400 communities serving about 338,000 people, Toews said.

"Our government will continue to support First Nations and Inuit policing as part of its ongoing commitment to keeping our streets and communities safe," he told the House of Commons.

Monday's announcement came just days after native leaders gathered in Ottawa to press Toews for a decision. For two years, every attempt to discuss the program with the minister had gone unanswered and time was running out, they said.

"There's nobody who could police our communities to the extent and effectiveness we do ourselves," Chief Lloyd Phillips of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake told a news conference last week.

Mar 04 2013

REGINA - An evacuation was ordered when a man who wanted to dispose of explosives walked into the Regina police station carrying blasting caps and cords.

The man brought the material into the building Sunday afternoon.

Police say the caps posed a serious safety risk and officials ordered part of the station evacuated.

The bomb disposal unit was called in and took the material to an off-site location where it was destroyed.

No one was hurt.

Police are reminding the public that if explosives are discovered, they should be reported to authorities by telephone and should not be transported on city streets. (CJME, CJWW)

Mar 04 2013

REGINA - Saskatchewan is saying no to lowering the legal drinking age, even though some members of the government's own party want the change.

Donna Harpauer, minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, says people will still have to be 19 to drink legally in the province.

Harpauer says the government has heard from many people who argue against lowering the drinking age to 18.

Dale Larsen with the Saskatchewan Association of Chiefs of Police says the chiefs back the government's decision.

Larsen says young people are already involved in a disproportionate number of matters involving alcohol and lowering the drinking age would only make it worse.

The question was being considered after delegates at the Saskatchewan Party's annual convention last fall voted in favour of lowering the drinking age.

Only Manitoba, Alberta and Quebec have the lower drinking age.

Mar 04 2013

RED DEER, Alta. - A judge has granted a central Alberta man permission to lay a charge of aggravated assault against a former courthouse sheriff.

Bill Berry of Red Deer is a mute cancer survivor who alleges the sheriff attacked him without cause while he was attempting to pay a traffic ticket in December 2011.

An investigation by the solicitor general's professional standards unit concluded that Thomas Bounds used what was termed "excessive" and "unjustified" force.

However, an RCMP investigation did not recommend charges.

Berry's lawyer presented evidence in a judge's chambers last week to support his client's allegation.

After scrutinizing Berry's application, provincial court Judge Bruce Fraser ruled that he could go ahead with the charge.

(Red Deer Advocate, The Canadian Press)

Mar 04 2013

TORONTO - Two high-ranking Toronto Police officers will go before a tribunal on April 9 to face allegations arising from the G20 summit.



Supt. Mark Fenton and Insp. Gary Meissner face misconduct charges which were laid under the Police Act.

When the matter came up before the tribunal on Monday, prosecutor Patricia Latimer provided the defence with "primary disclosure" of evidence. Neither of the officers were present at the proceeding.

During the June 2010 G20 summit, police allegedly did little to stop vandals and hooligans from taking over the streets.

On the second day of the summit, police started rounding up demonstrators and held them for hours.

The Office of the Independent Police Review Director said in a report that the round-ups were unreasonable and unlawful.

The incidents allegedly took place at Queen's Park, the University of Toronto and at Queen St. and Spadina Ave.

(Toronto Sun)

TUESDAY MARCH 5, 2013

Mar 05 2013

TORONTO - Interac Association says Interac debit card fraud losses, as a result of skimming, are at their lowest level on record since 2003 - falling to \$38.5 million in 2012 from a high of \$142 million in 2009.

This represents fewer than one per cent of domestic Interac debit card volume and the lowest volume of fraud losses since data was first recorded in 2003.

In addition, says Interac, the number of cardholders reimbursed fell to 93,800 in 2012 from 238,000 in 2009.

Caroline Hubberstey, the head of external communications for Interac Association, says the ongoing conversion to chip technology is a vital tactic in the fraud prevention strategy.

Interac says unlike a magnetic stripe, chip technology makes it extremely difficult to copy and reproduce.

By the end of January, 99 per cent of all active Interac debit cards 99.6 per cent of automatic banking machines (ABMs) had been converted to chip.

Mar 05 2013

BRANDON, Man. - A 73-year-old man convicted of driving impaired on his ride-on lawnmower on a Brandon, Man., street to get cigarettes has been sentenced to 150 days in jail.

Frank Wilhelm Mrkvicka, who has six previous impaired-driving convictions, has also been banned from driving for life.

Court heard Mrkvicka mistakenly believed impaired-driving laws don't apply to riding lawnmowers.

Crown lawyer Garry Rainnie says the accused man smelled of alcohol and was unsteady on his feet when police caught up to him last Sept. 3, after a witness called about an impaired driver on the machine.

Mrkvicka faced a minimum sentence of 120 days in jail, but Judge Shauna Hewitt-Michta opted for the extra time because of his previous convictions.

Hewitt-Michta told court the issue wasn't what the offender was driving, but where he was driving the mower.

(Brandon Sun)

Mar 05 2013

HALIFAX - An independent unit that examines police conduct in Nova Scotia will investigate after a Halifax woman sustained a broken arm while being arrested.

Halifax Regional Police say it has referred the matter to the Serious Incident Response Team.

Police say the incident began Monday when they received a report of a woman walking on Highway 111.

The woman agreed to walk on the shoulder of the road after being approached by patrol officers.

But police say they received another report about 20 minutes later that the same woman was walking on the highway again and jumping in front of vehicles.

Officers tried to arrest the woman for breach of peace, but police allege the 55-year-old resisted and assaulted one of the officers.

Police say her arm was injured during the arrest and was later determined to be broken.

Mar 05 2013

A 30-year veteran of the Toronto Police Service has been chosen as Barrie's next police chief.



Staff Superintendent Kimberley Greenwood will officially assume the role on March 26 after being announced as the ninth police chief in Barrie history on Monday.

"I am deeply honoured to accept this great responsibility. Leadership is born of example and I know I join a police service of committed officers with great abilities who work within our remarkable city," Greenwood said in a press release. "We will work together to ensure relationships are fostered to provide a safe and healthy community where laws are enforced, peace is preserved and where service delivery is conducted professionally and efficiently."

Greenwood is currently in charge of Central Field Command with the Toronto Police Service, where she oversees a budget of more than \$249 million and is responsible for 2,132 officers and 115 civilians.

During her career in Toronto, Greenwood has also served as unit commander with 51 Division, the Toronto Police College and the disciplinary hearings office.

In a press release, Chair of the City of Barrie Police Services Board Doug Jure said Greenwood's experience made her the right choice to lead Barrie's police force.

"Our choice was shaped from Kimberley Greenwood's enormous depth of experience and leadership abilities," he said. "This is the right time for Barrie to have a Chief who has the operations and management skills to build innovative, cost effective solutions within Barrie Police Services."

Greenwood is the second high-profile Toronto cop to leave the force to become a police chief elsewhere in the last year.

Last June, the Toronto Police Service's acting deputy chief Jeffrey McGuire assumed the role of police chief with the Niagara Regional Police Service.

(CP24)

MONTREAL - You might not notice because they're hidden under jackets and coats, but the Montreal police were supposed to change their uniforms from pale blue to dark blue shirts starting on Tuesday.



Their union is advising them otherwise and have asked the membership to keep the pale blue shirts they previously wore as a sign of their unhappiness with the current work situation.

The Police Brotherhood have been vocal in their dissatisfaction with a city of Montreal decision to cancel a pilot project that saw officers working the same total hours, but longer shifts, compressing the work week into three days.

Mayor Michael Applebaum announced two weeks ago that the pilot project will end at the end of March.

The city said this was too expensive.

The Brotherhood says the first tier police officers are risking their health and family lives working the same hours that people did in the 1970s, hence their sartorial decision to stay in the old uniforms.

"This is a means of expressing ourselves. Those on the old shifts are wearing the (pale) blue shirts, those on the new shifts are wearing the blue/black shirts," said Martin Desrochers, spokesperson for the Fraternité des policiers et policières de Montreal.

The transition towards new shirts is at cross purposes with the city that won't move toward new staffing procedures, says the Brotherhood.

Last week they demonstrated outside the police headquarters on St. Urbain St. This week they are playing musical shirts, and say they will continue to do so until the matter is resolved.

The Brotherhood says it is open to continue negotiations but against any move backwards.

(Montreal Gazette)

Mar 05 2013

AURORA, Ont. - The "management team" of an alleged multimillion-dollar illegal gambling operation with links to organized crime was arrested in raids Monday, police in Ontario said.

The group was running an offshore betting site called the Platinum Sports Book, which is a joint enterprise between the Hells Angels and traditional organized crime, police allege.

The raids marked the second set of arrests in a joint investigation involving numerous police forces that has seen more than 20 people arrested and \$5.5 million in cash seized along with handguns, a Taser and four vehicles, including a Porsche.

Illegal gambling operations are used to support other criminal ventures and involve threats and violence, police said.

"Illegal gaming and related criminal activity such as extortion, money laundering and loan sharking has a very real impact on families and communities," said RCMP Assistant Commissioner Stephen White.

A previous bust at an invitation-only Super Bowl party with more than 2,000 attendees at a banquet hall in Markham, Ont., saw six people arrested and charged - men police characterize as the heads of the gambling ring.

Now after raids Monday morning in Toronto, Barrie, Ont., London, Ont., and York Region north of Toronto, police say the rest of the "management team" is facing charges. Two of the 18 arrests are people they had already arrested on Super Bowl Sunday. Those men are now facing additional charges, including breaching their release conditions.

Police won't release the names and charges of those arrested until Wednesday.

Investigators are still looking for four other people and have issued warrants for their arrest.

Illegal gambling is not a victimless crime, said York Regional Police Deputy Chief Bruce Herridge.

"Organized crime groups are using illegal gaming profits to purchase and traffic in the drug trade," he said. "Many gamblers do not appreciate the negative consequences of what goes on behind the scenes when organized crime is managing the operation."

Mar 05 2013

100 MILE HOUSE, B.C. - Mounties have uncovered a virtual marijuana forest and bags of dried pot in a home outside of 100 Mile House, BC.

Police used a warrant to search a property near Roe Lake, and found more than 1,000 plants and about 23 kilograms of packaged marijuana.

Officers say they also found an extremely dangerous electrical setup, including a large junction box with a spaghetti-like tangle of wiring feeding electricity into the grow-operation.

Const. Lesley Smith says the drug's street value is estimated at more than a million dollars, and the pot will be destroyed.

Three Metro Vancouver men and a fourth man from Poland were arrested and face production and trafficking charges.

The investigation was part of the RCMP's national Marijuana Grow Initiative, a strategy to fight grow-ops.

Mar 05 2013

VANCOUVER - Two groups representing residents on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside plan to file a

complaint with the police board over allegations of discriminatory policing.

The Pivot Legal Society and the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users said Monday that 95 per cent of the tickets issued under the city's street and traffic bylaw during the past four years were handed out in the poor neighbourhood. The groups want police to change their policies.

But Vancouver police say the groups issued a "misleading" news release and that their enforcement of the bylaw does not amount to discrimination.

"Tickets are given out where the offences occur," police spokesman Const. Brian Montague said in an email.

"The (Downtown Eastside) is where the majority of street vending happens. We don't have a street vending problem in other areas of the city generating disorder, selling stolen property or unsafe food products, and acting as a cover for drug dealing."

He said most of the tickets for liquor offences, for example, are handed out in the entertainment district while certain areas of the city are known for speeding drivers.

Mar 05 2013

OTTAWA - The federal government is creating a new anti-contraband police task force to combat illegal tobacco sales.

It has also introduced legislation to impose minimum sentences for those caught trafficking in smuggled smokes.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews says a new 50-officer RCMP unit will target contraband tobacco smugglers.

Toews says organized criminal gangs benefit from illegal tobacco sales, but Canadians pay the price through higher health care costs.

Legislation introduced in the Senate would create a new Criminal Code offence for trafficking in contraband.

If the bill becomes law, penalties would range from six months behind bars for a first offence to five years in jail for committing an indictable offence.

Repeat offenders would also receive mandatory minimum penalties of between 90 and 180 days incarceration when high volumes of illegal tobacco products are involved.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6, 2013

Mar 06 2013

CALGARY - A father who was blocked from holding his daughter in her last moments is sharing his painful story in hopes of preventing the same thing from happening again.

Last July, Lou Rosenfeld was cycling along a highway in southern Alberta with his 20-year-old daughter Rebecca when her front wheel clipped Lou's back wheel.

Rebecca lost control, veered into traffic,

and was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

Rosenfeld says that when RCMP officers arrived at the scene, they kept him from going to Rebecca, even threatening to handcuff him.

When the story went public, RCMP promised to review how the situation was handled.

As a result, Rosenfeld was invited to speak at the RCMP training facility in Regina, to help prepare new recruits with what they may face in the field.

(Global Calgary)

Mar 06 2013

VICTORIA - An RCMP officer has been cleared of an assault charge in connection with allegations that he repeatedly punched a man in the head in Terrace, B.C.

Criminal Justice Branch spokesman Neil MacKenzie says the charge against the unnamed officer was not approved after a careful analysis of the May 15, 2012 incident involving William Watts.

MacKenzie says the evidence does not reliably establish the accuracy of the allegations against the Mountie.

He says Crown lawyers have also concluded that they can't prove unlawful force was used in pulling Watts from a police vehicle, resulting in his fall to the ground.

MacKenzie says the evidence as a whole suggests there is no substantial likelihood of a conviction on a charge of assault.

The B.C. Civil Liberties Association has raised concerns about the RCMP's treatment of aboriginal people in northwest B.C., in three separate incidents, including the one involving Watts, who alleged he was punched after he was handcuffed.

Mar 06 2013

OTTAWA - A Conservative bill aimed at improving the RCMP's internal disciplinary and grievance processes following complaints of harassment and gender disparities in the workforce appears on track to become law after clearing the House of Commons on Wednesday.

The Conservatives used their majority to pass Bill C-42, the Enhancing Royal Canadian Mounted Police Accountability Act.

"This common-sense piece of legislation strengthens the review and complaints body for the RCMP, establishes a process for handling serious criminal issues involving RCMP officers and streamlines the management of RCMP human resources," Public Safety Minister Vic Toews said in a statement after the vote.

"Our government made it clear that we would work closely with (RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson) to take action to restore pride in Canada's national police force. This bill gives the commissioner the tools he needs to do just that."

The bill proposes to streamline the national police force's disciplinary system and bureaucratic grievance process. The

government has said complaints can sometimes take as long as five years before they're resolved, while Paulson has complained disciplinary provisions are inadequate as the punishment dished out to "rotten apples" just "does not cut it."

Bill C-42 would give the RCMP commissioner new powers to dismiss members for non-disciplinary reasons like absenteeism and poor performance. It would also give senior managers a host of sanctions that could be used on short notice, like suspending pay. Disciplinary boards would still be responsible for adjudicating serious cases but the new legislation would allow boards to deal with matters without a formal hearing.

The bill would also replace the existing Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP with a new Civilian Review and Complaints Commission that would be able to compel witnesses to give evidence and ensure the force complies with various legislation and regulations. The new

commission will also be able to appoint civilian observers to ensure the RCMP is not biased when investigating one of its own.

(Postmedia)

Mar 06 2013

MONTREAL - Former RCMP interpreter Angelo Cecere may face up to two years less a day in a provincial jail, if the Crown has its way.

Cecere pleaded guilty to breach of trust and disclosing private information to members of organized crime.

Sentencing arguments wrapped up today in his case.

He was arrested in July 2007 following an RCMP investigation that uncovered sensitive documents in Cecere's home, along with recordings from investigations dating back to 1993.

Among the evidence collected was a diskette containing almost 500 documents pertaining to sensitive wiretap information on



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a dozen RCMP operations.

Documents from the RCMP-led Project Colisée, a crackdown on the Mafia, were also found in his home.

Names and information of people linked to organized crime were on those documents.

The prosecution said Cecere had a very high security clearance and knew he should not have been taking those items home.

Cecere's lawyer Daniel Rock argued his client has a document-collecting compulsion. Rock also said his client is losing his vision and needs the help of a guide dog to get around.

He recommended a one-year sentence for Cecere, to be served in the community. Sentencing will be handed down on March 28th. (CBC News)

Mar 06 2013

Some mayors of smaller towns and villages are worried what a reduction in RCMP satellite offices will mean for policing services in their municipalities.

The RCMP is planning to close between 12 and 15 satellite offices around New Brunswick.

The police force argues that all of its patrol cars are equipped with computers now so they no longer need as many small, satellite offices spread around the province.

Raymond Murphy, the executive director of the Union of New Brunswick Municipalities, said the police force has held consultations with various communities, such as Salisbury, New Maryland and Lepreau.

Murphy said he understands the police force must cut costs and paying for heat, cleaning and snow clearing for offices that are used once or twice a week may not be efficient.

But Murphy said the towns still want a police presence.

"Our biggest concern is that our municipalities receive the coverage that they feel they are entitled to," Murphy said.

A RCMP spokesperson said these are consultations with local councils and no decisions have been made.

(CBC News)

THURSDAY
MARCH 7, 2013

Mar 07 2013

OSOYOOS, B.C. - High-tech, CSI-style identification methods were helpful, but good memory and grunt work are the keys that have helped B.C. Mounties and U.S. officials crack a cold case.

Investigators in the southern B.C. community of Osoyoos have been working since November 2007 to find Miguel Joao Goncalves, who was in his mid-40s when his family reported him missing.

Meanwhile, police in Washington State have been trying to identify the remains of a man found along the banks of the Okanogan River, about 100 kilometres south of Osoyoos, in 2008.

Law enforcement agencies shared details of the cases last year, including the fact that the unidentified man had a hip implant - although attempts to track the implant in hopes of identifying the victim had hit a dead end.

Fast forward several months to the BC Police Missing Persons Centre as an investigator reviewed historical missing persons cases in the South Okanagan and remembered Goncalves' file showed he had an implant.

With those details, U.S. authorities were able to quickly make a match, resolving the more than six-year-old John Doe mystery and providing some closure for the Goncalves family.

Mar 07 2013

HALIFAX - One of Halifax's top cops is retiring. Halifax Regional Police Deputy Chief Christopher McNeil announced his retirement Wednesday after 31 years with the force.



was a champion of police ethics, discipline, diversity in policing, youth and restorative justice.

He was also a former president of the Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association and

chaired the drug abuse committee of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

McNeil has also been involved with the Nova Scotia Gambia Association working on restorative justice and community-based policing.

McNeil is a non-practising member of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society.

He is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and was named an Officer of the Order of Merit with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. (Halifax Chronicle Herald)

Mar 07 2013

OTTAWA - Canada's correctional investigator is giving the country's prison system a failing grade for the way it deals with aboriginals behind bars.

The report by Howard Sapers says the gap in incarceration rates between aboriginals and non-aboriginals is widening.

Sapers says roughly one in four inmates in federal penitentiaries is aboriginal.

But he says aboriginal-specific provisions in the justice system are chronically underfunded.

Sapers is calling on the Harper government to significantly increase funding to deal with aboriginal offenders.

He also recommends appointing a deputy commissioner for aboriginal corrections to ensure the government is held to account in dealing with incarceration rates for Aboriginal Peoples.



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